

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The method of claim 1,~~
A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:
determining a monetary value;
allocating a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value,
in which the ticket is associated with a predetermined price, and
in which the predetermined price is greater than the monetary value;
outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and
storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier,
in which the step of determining a monetary value comprises:
determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~2, further comprising:
selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets comprises:
selecting a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets comprises:

determining a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value; and

selecting a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus of claim 6,~~

An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

_____ a storage device; and

_____ a processor connected to the storage device,

_____ the storage device storing

_____ a program for controlling the processor; and

_____ the processor operative with the program to:

_____ determine a monetary value;

_____ allocate a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value,

_____ in which the ticket is associated with a predetermined price, and

_____ in which the predetermined price is greater than the monetary value;

_____ output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and

_____ store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device,

in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

determine a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[6]]7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
select the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

select a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

determine a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value; and

select a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

11 – 13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[13]]2, in which the step of determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase comprises:

rounding the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded change amount; and

setting the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, in which the step of rounding the amount of change due comprises:

rounding down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded-down change amount.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim [[13]]2, further comprising:

outputting an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

17. (CANCELLED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[17]]7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

round the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded change amount; and

set the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 18, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

round down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded-down change amount.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[17]]7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

output an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

21 – 36. (CANCELLED)

37. (NEW) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining a prize value of the ticket; and

determining a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

38. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
determine a prize value of the ticket; and
determine a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining a prize value of the ticket; and
providing a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

40. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
determine a prize value of the ticket; and
provide a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
maintaining a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof,

each ticket having an identical ticket price,

in which a first ticket of the supply of tickets has a first unallocated portion,

in which a second ticket of the supply of tickets has a second unallocated portion, and

in which the second unallocated portion is less than the first unallocated portion; and
acquiring an additional ticket.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 41, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first predetermined threshold; and

acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 41, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

receiving an indication of a requested portion;

counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the requested portion; and

acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

44. (NEW) The method of claim 41, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

acquiring a predetermined number of additional tickets.

45. (NEW) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
calculating a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

46. (NEW) The method of claim 45, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

acquiring an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined threshold.

47. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

maintain a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof,

each ticket having an identical ticket price,

in which a first ticket of the supply of tickets has a first unallocated portion,

in which a second ticket of the supply of tickets has a second unallocated portion, and

in which the second unallocated portion is less than the first unallocated portion; and

acquire an additional ticket.

48. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 47, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first predetermined threshold; and

acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

49. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 47, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

receive an indication of a requested portion;

count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the requested portion; and

acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

50. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 47, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

acquire a predetermined number of additional tickets.

51. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 47, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

calculate a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

52. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 51, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

acquire an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined threshold.